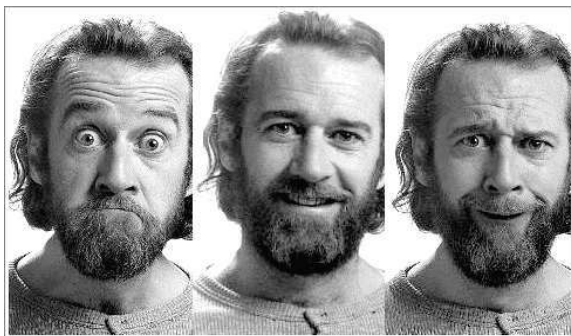


COMPRESIÓN DE LECTURA - TASK 3 (0,5 x 12 = 6 marks)

Read the text and then decide which of the options below (A, B or C) best fits each space. Write the letter in the corresponding box on the right.
Question 0 has been completed as an example.

GEORGE CARLIN

THE "DISSAPPOINTED IDEALIST" WHO BECAME A CULT COMEDIAN



George Carlin, who has died aged 71, was a _____ (0) _____ stand-up comic in the tradition of Lenny Bruce, who once defined the comedian's duty as to "find out where the line is and to cross it deliberately". And for the best part of four decades, that's exactly what Carlin did, said Bruce Weber in *The New York Times*. Balding and pony-tailed, he "prowled the stage, eyes ablaze with intensity" in _____ (1) _____ from Las Vegas to London, as he railed against the absurdities of modern American life, such as hyphenated names, the infatuation with camcorders, and trainers with lights in the soles. "When you're born, you get a ticket to the freak show," he *once* _____ (2) _____ in an interview. "When you're born in America, you get a front-row seat."

George Denis Patrick Carlin was born in New York in 1937. His mother, a secretary, taught him to scorn all misuses of language from an early age, said *The Independent*, and this would become one of the abiding themes of Carlin's comedy. (He ridiculed euphemisms such as "collateral damage", and picked apart phrases such as "jumbo shrimp" and "military intelligence", both of which he regarded as oxymorons.) He _____ (3) _____ out of school at the age of 17 and after an inglorious stint in the US air force - during which he was _____ (4) _____ "an unproductive airman" - he began working as a comic. His early material was fairly conventional, however. It wasn't until the late Sixties that Carlin realised the people he was entertaining weren't his friends: they were the parents of his friends. Feeling he was "a traitor", he decided to transform his act, lacing it with obscenities, and _____ (5) _____ subjects considered taboo at the time, such as the Vietnam War.

The controversial nature of the new material initially cost him bookings, but _____ (6) _____ time Carlin became a cult figure on American campuses, said *The Times*, and his comedy albums began to sell in their millions. He _____ (7) _____ his greatest notoriety as a result of a routine entitled *Seven Words You Can Never Say on Television*, which he first performed in 1972 in Milwaukee. With rhythmical, almost lyrical repetition, Carlin runs through the list of words (from "shit" to "tits") that he claimed the authorities thought would "curve your spine, warp your mind, and keep the country from winning the war". He was arrested for the Milwaukee show and the ensuing controversy eventually reached the Supreme Court. By the _____ (8) _____ margin of five to four, the judges decided to uphold the right of the US government to censor material that might be heard by children - a ruling that still stands today. As for Carlin, he merely observed that the debate had made his name "a _____ (9) _____ in American history, which I'm perversely kind of proud of".

From 1977 to 1982 he stopped _____ (10) _____ owing to heart problems exacerbated by his cocaine addiction. Carlin _____ (11) _____ the habit, however, and on his comeback tour seemed to have lost none of the fire in his belly. He insisted on performing his *Seven Words* routine at Carnegie Hall, even extending it. (As the credits come down on the recording of that night, he can still be heard intoning the contentious list.) If anything, said Weber, Carlin's act became more ferocious as the years went by. His favourite topics included suicide, natural disasters (and the desire to see them increase in severity), war, abortion, and his general _____ (12) _____ of sympathy for homo sapiens. "I think we're already 'circling the drain' as a species," he said once, "and I'd love to see the circles get a little faster; and a little shorter." In 2004 Carlin's run at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas was cancelled after he so insulted his audience that he almost started a riot. Although he later checked into rehab for addiction to alcohol and painkillers, Carlin never apologised for his misanthropic persona. "Scratch any cynic," he liked to point out, "and you'll find a disappointed idealist." He is survived by Sally, his second wife, and his daughter from his first marriage, Kelly.

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| PUNTUACIÓN | / 6 |
|-------------------|------------|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p>Example: 0. A <i>foul-up</i> B <i>foul-mouthed</i> C <i>mouthwash</i></p> | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>B</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | B | |
| B | | | |

1. A sights
 B sites
 C venues

7. A achieved
 B attempted
 C fulfilled

2. A accounted
 B remarked
 C reported

8. A low
 B narrow
 C short

3. A dropped
 B skipped
 C stepped

9. A breakthrough
 B drop
 C footnote

4. A appointed
 B classified
 C labelled

10. A perform
 B performing
 C to perform

5. A dealing
 B tackling
 C undertaking

11. A hitched
 B kicked
 C sacked

6. A about
 B in
 C on

12. A affluence
 B lack
 C short

TASK 3 – (HUECOS ELECCIÓN MÚLTIPLE) GEORGE CARLIN

- | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 2. B | 3. A | 4. C | 5. B | 6. B |
| 7. A | 8. B | 9. C | 10. B | 11. B | 12. B |